Modern Greek Studies Foundation

Μαντατοφόρος*

The Nikos Kazantzakis Chair

Center for Modern Greek Studies
San Francisco State University

Winter 1987 | *MANDATOPHOROS: Bearer of news, messenger | Vol. 3, No. 4



"Zorba" Added to Modern Greek Collection

The Center for Modern Greek Studies has acquired the painting **"Zorba"** by Greek artist **Marilena Klonaris**. *Zorba the Greek*, of course, is the famous novel by Nikos Kazantzakis, and the character of Alexis Zorbas has become synonymous with the Greek love of life—and with laughter, dance, compassion, and joy. Klonaris' painting depicts Zorba dancing near the sea, his heels kicked up, one hand on his hip and the other twirling the traditional *komboloi*. The brilliant Greek sun, the sky, and a sailboat in the distance provide the background.

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A Little Class - Spring Courses at S.F.S.U.

Spring is coming—and with it a new semester at San Francisco State University. The Center for Modern Greek Studies will be offering several classes in language and literature. A related S.F.S.U. course in **Byzantine Art & Architecture** may also be of interest to the Greek-American community.

A course in **Modern Greek Literature** is slated every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11-12 noon (first class Jan. 29). Taught by **Prof. Thanasis Maskaleris**, it will provide students with a broad perspective of modern Greek prose and poetry within a historical/cultural framework; students will read works by Solomos, Kavafis, Kazantzakis, Seferis, Taktsis, Elytis, Ritsos, and other—more recent—writers. Call the Center for Modern Greek Studies at 338-1892 for details.

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A recent Greek class outing to The Greek Village in S.F.

Language courses are continuing at various levels—see page 2 for schedule.



Prof. Richard Clogg *was on the S.F. State University campus on Sept. 25, speaking on "Some Turning Points in Anglo-Greek Relations During the Second World War"—a lecture sponsored by the CMGS and the Hellenic American Professional Society. Above, Prof. Clogg answers questions from the audience. (Photo by Anastasia Condas)*

Planned Contributions From AHEPA, Daughters of Penelope

During their June, 1987, annual district convention, the **Order of Ahepa (Golden Gate District 21)** placed support of the Modern Greek Studies Foundation programs on their list of projects for 1987-88. In addition, the **Daughters of Penelope** (District 21) will donate the profits from their **1987 Charitable Raffle** to the MGSF in support of the modern Greek programs at S.F. State University.

Spring Courses, cont'd.

Byzantine Art & Architecture will be taught by **Professor Emeritus Andreina Becker-Colonna** from the faculty of the Classics Department. Prof. Becker-Colonna is a specialist in Mediterranean archaeology and ancient religions, and her course will concentrate on the period from the reign of Emperor Constantine to that of Justinian. Class will include slide shows and readings on the sculpture, mosaics, ivories, sarcophagi, etc., made during those times in such cities as Ravenna, Italy and Constantinople.

Byzantine Art & Architecture is scheduled for Tuesdays, 2-5 p.m. The first class will meet on Feb. 2. For more information, call the Classics Department at 338-2068.

Modern Greek Studies Courses Spring 1988

Language

Greek 251 - ***Modern Greek II***
(Second Semester)
MWF 12:10-1:00 p.m.
Humanities Bldg., Rm. 302
Instructor: Effie Kalafatis

Greek 251e* - ***Modern Greek II***
(Second Semester)
Wed. 7:00-9:45 p.m.
Humanities Bldg., Rm. TBA
Instructor: Effie Kalafatis

Greek 470 - ***Advanced Modern Greek IV***
(Fourth Semester)
Mon. 2:10-4:55 p.m.
Humanities Bldg., Rm. 246
Call for further information

Literature

WCL 445 - ***Modern Greek Literature***
MWF 11:10-12:00 p.m.
Creative Arts Bldg., Rm. 229
Instructor: Thanasis Maskaleris

Related Course

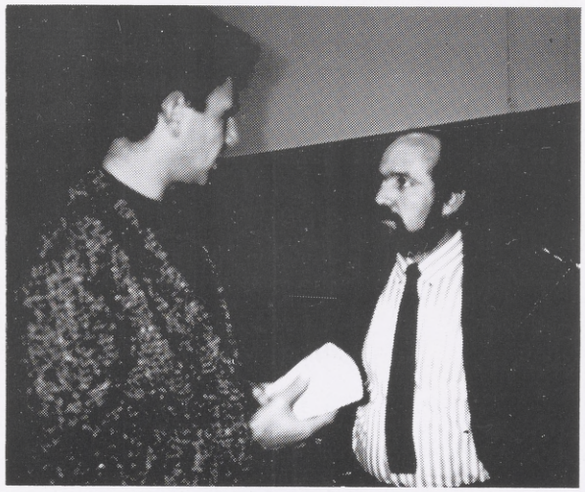
CLAR 820 - ***Byzantine Art & Architecture***
Tues., 2:10-4:55 p.m.
Building & room TBA
Instructor: Andreina Becker-Colonna

*Offered through Extended Education.

Classes begin on Jan. 29. Non-University students can register in these courses through San Francisco State University's Extended Education. Call Extended Ed. at 338-1378 or the Center for Modern Greek Studies at 338-1892 for details.

NOTE: **Schedule subject to change.** Call to confirm days, times, and room numbers.

Pieris Speaks on Kavafis and the Sea



Pieris, on the right, discusses a fine point with a student.

Dr. Michael Pieris, professor of medieval and modern Greek literature at the Universities of Crete and Thessaloniki, delivered a lecture and reading entitled **"Beloved Waters - The Theme of the Sea in the Poetry of Kavafis"** on Tuesday, November 10, at the University of California in Berkeley. The lecture was sponsored jointly by the Center for Modern Greek Studies and the Modern Greek Program in the Department of Comparative Literature at U.C.

Dr. Pieris focused on representative poems, read both in Greek and in English, and demonstrated how sea imagery functions in Kavafis' work. Kavafis and his relationship with the sea is a subject that has not been fully investigated, until now, and Dr. Pieris' lecture presented many new and fascinating findings.

Dr. Pieris has published numerous studies related to Kavafis' poetry—as well as on the works of other Greek writers and poets. His book *Space, Light and Speech: The Dialectics of the "inside" and "outside" in the Poetry of C.P. Cavafy* is due for release shortly.

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Consultant: James Uomini.
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New and Repeat Contributors to the MGSF

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* * *

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Sen. Nicholas C. Petris
Kenneth Phillips
Paul F. Preuss
Steven Tsakoyias

Modern Greek Studies Foundation To Hold Board Meeting

A rescheduled Board of Directors meetings will be held on January 29, 1988. At that time the Board will review the past year's activities and plan for the future.

"Zorba", cont'd.

Klonaris, an Alexandrian Greek, studied in London and Spain, and has exhibited widely in the U.S. and abroad. She claims to have been greatly influenced by Kazantzakis and, like the writer, has been lauded for her ability "to transmute joy and sorrow into an aesthetic creation...(her) innermost feelings into a vibrant song of beauty and optimism" (R. Rigopoulos). Now settled in Greece, Klonaris finds her work is inevitably touched by the Greek landscape, and many of her paintings deal with Greek mythological themes.

Klonaris' most recent exhibit took place at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Ascension in Oakland. In addition to "Zorba," the Center was able to acquire her lithograph **"Madame Hortense"**—another well-known character from Kazantzakis' novel. We are proud to have both as part of the Kyriakos Tsakopoulos Modern Greek Collection at the CMGS.

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Prologue to *The Saviors of God: Spiritual Exercises* by Nikos Kazantzakis

We come from a dark abyss, we end in a dark abyss, and we call the luminous interval life.

As soon as we are born the return begins, at once the setting forth and the coming back; we die in every moment. Because of this many have cried out: The goal of life is death! But as soon as we are born we begin the struggle to create, to compose, to turn matter into life; we are born in every moment. Because of this many have cried out: The goal of ephemeral life is immortality! In the temporary living organism these two streams collide: (a) the ascent toward composition, toward life, toward immortality; (b) the descent toward decomposition, toward matter, toward death. Both streams well up from the depths of primordial essence.

Life startles us at first; it seems somewhat beyond the law, somewhat contrary to nature, somewhat like a transitory counteraction to the dark eternal fountains; but deeper down we feel that Life is itself without a beginning, an indestructible force of the Universe. Otherwise, from where did that superhuman strength come which hurls us from the unborn to the born and gives us—plants, animals, men—courage for the struggle? But both opposing forces are holy.

It is our duty, therefore, to grasp that vision which can embrace and harmonize these two enormous, timeless, and indestructible forces, and with this vision to modulate our thinking and our action.

Translated by Kimon Friar

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